GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
DEATHS DUE TO POLLUTION IN ATMOSPHERIC AIR
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the World Bank Report regarding death of 7 lakh 50 thousand persons in India every year due to pollution of atmospheric air;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to contain the air pollution?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (A), (B) AND (C) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 120 RAISED BY T.T. V. DHINAKARAN TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.11.2001 REGARDING DEATHS DUE TO POLLUTION IN ATMOSPHERIC AIR.

(a) According to the information furnished by the World Bank they have not been able to find any document which states the above figures relating to deaths due to air pollution.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The action taken by the Government to contain the air pollution include the following: -

(i) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(ii) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified and Action Plans have been prepared for all the 24 areas which are being implemented by the various State Pollution Control Boards under the supervision of Central Pollution Control Board.

(iii) Environmental guidelines for siting and operation of industries have been brought out;

(iv) Environmental clearance is made mandatory for 30 categories of developmental projects involving public hearing/NGO participation as an important component of EIA process;

(v) Environmental audit in the form of environmental statement has been made mandatory for all polluting industries;

(vi) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in the different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures;

(vii) For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards, introduction of unleaded petrol in major cities, installation of catalytic converters, introduction of low sulphur fuels and improvement in the fuel quality have been undertaken;

(viii) Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries based on environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up.

(ix) A Network of Ambient Air (290) and Water (507) Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.

(x) Effluent and Emission Standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act for almost all categories of industries. Besides, standards for ambient air and water quality have also been notified.

(xi) For reduction of vehicular pollution, emission standards and fuel quality standards have been notified. The manufacturers are now

required to mention in their advertisements that their vehicles meet the prescribed emission norms as per the notification issued by MoEF.

(xii) Power plants (coal based) located beyond 1000 kms. from the pit-head are required to use low ash content coal (not exceeding 34%) w.e.f. 1.6.2002. Power plants located in the sensitive areas are also required to use low ash coal irrespective of their distance from the pit-head.

(xiii) A Status Paper on pollution in Delhi and Mumbai with Action Plans for its control have been prepared and the same are being implemented.

(xiv) 6 Environment Authorities have been constituted under the EPA, including the National Environment Appellate Authority.

(xv) The Ministry is promoting environment management system (EMS) programme by the industry for continual improvement of environmental performance and encouraging voluntary compliance of standards. More than 250 companies in India have acquired ISO 14001 certification.